

# HELSINKI PROCESS ON GLOBALISATION AND DEMOCRACY

## REVIEW CONFERENCE JOURNAL, 27 NOVEMBER 2007

### Inclusive Governance – Bridging Global Divides

“The Helsinki Process serves as the hub for the networking of stakeholders from the North and South [...] countries have learnt that their national agendas should be set within the context of global agendas”, stated Minister Bernard K. Membe in the opening session of the Helsinki Process Review Conference.

Since the launch of the Helsinki Process in 2003, the need for dialogue among stakeholders from different regions has only become clearer. Bridging the divides between different states, cultures and actors seems to be more topical now than it ever has been. The Co-chairs emphasised the key role of the Friends of the Helsinki Process governments and other partners in mobilising political will to promote more democratic global governance.

Deputy Foreign Minister Ms. Teija Tiilikainen noted that the international community seems to have a genuine interest in the Helsinki Process experiences of and recommendations for multi-stakeholder cooperation in different international fora. As a response to this interest, the Co-chairs are planning to present the experiences of the Helsinki Process in writing to the Secretary General of the United Nations in September 2008.

The Co-chairs noted that the purpose of the Review Conference is mainly to take stock of the work of the Helsinki Process thus far: what has been achieved, what can be learned and what could or should be made use of also in the future.

In this light, the three main aims of the Review Conference are to:

1. Review the achievements of the Road Maps and Roundtables;
2. Evaluate lessons learned from multi-stakeholder cooperation in different contexts and with different topics and;
3. Make recommendations for global problems which would require urgent, multi-stakeholder action as well as recommendations for



### PROGRAMME FOR 28 NOVEMBER

#### 08:30 Peace and Security Session

*“The Role of Non-state Actors in Promoting Peace and Security”*

#### 11:00 Poverty and Development Session

*“The Interface between National and Global Economic Policies”*

#### 14:00 Human Rights Session

*“An Individual Rights Based Approach to Global Policy Making”*

#### 16:30 Governance Session

*“The Role of Informal Diplomacy in Global Governance”*

*“The system of global governance is not mature enough to manage the global tasks of the 21st century. Issues such as climate change and forced human displacement only serve to reinforce the interdependence between nations and citizens and to highlight the need to develop broader global partnerships.”*

Teija Tiilikainen, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland

## THE OPENING PANEL

*Ambassador Raouf Saad* opened the panel discussion by noting that the cultural divide is one of the greatest divides of our time because it affects all other global divides. This divide should merit serious attention because it directly affects international political and economic relations as well as the fabrics of society and could result in wider divides. He called for the Helsinki Process to initiate efforts to address this divide through innovative programs and projects geared at establishing successful models of dialogue.

*Wahu Kaara* highlighted five key global divides: the unequal power relationship between the North and the South; the lack of democracy in the global trade and financial architecture; international migration; unsustainable economic growth and the lack of democratic governance at the local level. She called for a paradigm shift towards more people-centred visions and values.

*Janina Andersson* identified three global divides that she considered particularly important: the empowerment of women, how to manage economic growth and climate change at the same time, and how to promote civil society participation at all levels. She called for an international kerosene tax and customs on the products of countries who are not parties to environmental agreements as well as a civil society fund for the United Nations.

*Anna Tibajuka* singled the local dimension of governance as a key global challenge which has not been tackled with sufficient fervour. People need to be empowered at the local level, because rapid, chaotic urbanisation can lead to social disorder. She suggested that the Helsinki Process examine in more depth the crucial issues of governance at the local level.

*"We need to shift the paradigm towards more people-centred visions and values. We need to go beyond the mainstream and we need greater support in the south for institution building and for research and analysis on topical issues. At the global level, this needs to be supported by a more inclusive multilateral framework."*

Wahu Kaara



## Small Arms Survey Side-Event

"Cities are now home to the majority of the world's population and present particular challenges for tackling armed violence," said Keith Krause, Programme Director of the Geneva-based Small Arms Survey at the African launching of the Small Arms Survey Report 2007: Guns and the City.

In addition to the annual report, a study of Small Arms in Burundi: Disarming the Civilian Population in Peacetime was also presented. This report is an exhaustive study of the problems associated with small arms in Burundi. The study finds that nearly 100,000 Burundian households possess firearms and that the proliferation of arms among the civilian population is most marked in the capital, where 16 per cent of household survey respondents stated that many or most households owned small arms such as handguns for self-protection.

During the discussion, the participants stressed the importance of regional cooperation in tackling small arms proliferation. The role of informal consultations was emphasised as a means to accelerate intergovernmental processes such as the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

"No country is immune to the tragic human consequences of small arms misuse; rapid urban development strains the social fabric and creates conditions for increasing crime and violence. The international community needs to address the urban armed violence", noted Ambassador Kari Kahiluoto.